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## PROBLEMS OF GREATER BRITAIN.

SIR CHARLES DILKE.

While, however, we have so much of which to be proud in the development of our tongue, our trade, our literature, and our institutions, there is a corresponding present and temporary weakness to which it will be necessary in due place to call attention. The danger in our path is that the enormous forces of European militarism may crush the old country and destroy the integrity of our Empire before the growth of the newer communities that it contains has made it too strong for the attack. It is conceivable that within the next few years Great Britain might be drawn into war, and receive in that war, at the hands of a coalition, a blow from which she would not recover, and one of the consequences of which would be the loss of Canada and of India, and the proclamation of Australian independence. Enormous as are our military resources for a prolonged conflict, they are inadequate to meet the unprecedented necessities of a sudden war. We import half our food; we import the immense masses of raw material which are essential to our industry. The vulnerability of the United Kingdom has become greater with the extension of her trade, and, by the universal admission of the naval authorities, it would be either difficult or impossible to defend that trade against a sudden attack by France, aided by another considerable naval power. Our enormous resources would be almost useless in the case of such a sudden attack, because we should not have time to call them forth.

Such is the one danger which threatens the fabric of that splendid Empire which I now attempt to describe.

## A SUFFERER FROM THE CIVIL WAR.

Col. Samuel Perry Lee, a retired officer of the United States Army, died at his home at Martha's Vineyard, Oct. 20, 1890, at the age of fifty-eight. Colonel Lee was one of the bravest and most efficient officers. He lost an arm at Gettysburg while serving on the staff of General Birney. His health never fully recovered from the shock of his repeated wounds and a subsequent sunstroke at the Bahamas. He was born in Maine and spent his boyhood in Leeds and Hallowell. His father was Jonas P. Lee; his mother Ann Otis Lee, daughter of Oliver Otis and sister to the mother of Gen. O. O. Howard. He became a sailor in early life and was in command of a ship at the age of twenty-three years. He served first in the United States Navy in 1860-'61 but was transferred to the Third Maine Regiment at his own request. He rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and continued in the army in active duties for some years after the close of the war. Colonel Lee married Lizzie, daughter of Dr. Fiske of Milford, Mass., who survives him. His brother Silas died in a St. Louis hospital during the war. His sister, wife of Hon. P. S. J. Talbot, formerly of Machias, but now of Malden, Mass., is the only surviving member of the family. Colonel Lee always felt a warm regard for his native State and his army and navy comrades. His adventurous and heroic life is worthy of a place in the history of Maine, and also in that of the nation. Colonel Lee was buried with his more than ten thousand comrades at the National Cemetery, Arlington, Va.—*Lewiston (Me.) Journal*.

The signature of Christopher Columbus brings a higher price than that of any other dead celebrity.

## QUAKER MISSIONS.

There are no less than fifty-three English Friends on the mission field. The Foreign Missionary income is over \$74,000, and the chief spheres of labor are China and India, where some hundred zenanas are open to the agents of the society. They have also an interesting Mission in the district of Mount Lebanon. Not less vigorous are their Home Missions. They, too, with the rest of the churches, are working for the upraising of the East End of London. They have a very effective Temperance Union, and it is needless to speak of their indefatigable exertions in the cause of "Peace upon earth." Quaint and old-fashioned as the Friends may seem to many, there is room for their quiet and meditative vigor in the midst of the rush and stir of this nineteenth century.—*Christian Advocate*.

Theoretically the Czar of Russia is the only absolute ruler in Europe; practically he is not an absolute ruler at all. He has two Mayors of the Palace—Terrorism is the name of the one, Militarism is the name of the other.—*The Arbitrator*.

If war is declared by France all the coal-miners are subject to military service. The French Minister of war has devised a measure to relieve this class, lest the railroads and all individuals and corporations dependent on coal should be compelled to stop.

## A FOOL

Who burns his house  
To kill a mouse.

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